

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2734

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, VN

SUBJ: PRC-SRV RELATIONS

1. FOR WHATEVER THEY MIGHT BE WORTH, FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS
PRC EMBOFF HSIAO HOU-TE (5135/0624/1795) REMARKS TO CHARGE
ON THIS SUBJECT AT 12 JUNE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY RE-
CEPTION.

2. BACKGROUND TO EXPULSION OF CHINESE FROM VIETNAM.
CHINA AND VIETNAM HAVE A GREAT DEAL IN COMMON, RACIALLY AND
CULTURALLY, AND NOW BOTH HAVE SIMILAR ONE-PARTY SOCIALIST
SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT. THE CHINESE UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT
VIETNAMESE SENSITIVITY ABOUT INDEPENDENCE VIS-A-VIS CHINA,
GIVEN THE LONG HISTORY OF IMPERIAL CHINESE AGGRESSION AGAINST
VIETNAM. THE PRC DEMONSTRATED ITS GOOD INTENTIONS BY PROVID-
ING SUBSTANTIAL AID TO VIETNAM DURING THE WAR WITHOUT REQUEST
FOR REPAYMENT. THERE ARE NO BILATERAL ISSUES OUTSTANDING BET-
WEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM AS REGARDS THE COMMON BORDER, TRADE
OR ANYTHING ELSE. (NOTE: SPRATLY ISLANDS OMITTED.) CHINA
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ALWAYS TOOK THE ATTITUDE THAT THE OVERSEAS CHINESE IN VIETNAM
SHOULD BE GOOD CITIZENS OF THEIR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE, AND
THEY HAD NEVER HERETOFORE BEEN REFERRED TO BY THE SRV AS A
PROBLEM.

3. WHY DID HANOI DECIDE TO EXPEL THE OVERSEAS CHINESE,
AND IN THIS DRAMTIC MANNER?

THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF LEADERSHIP IN HANOI. BEFORE, THE HO CHI MINH GROUP WAS STILL IN CONTROL. THOUGH PROUD OF VIETNAMESE INDEPENDENCE THEY CONSIDERED CHINA A BROTHER SOCIALIST, BROTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH SIMILAR PROBLEMS. THEY EXPECTED THEIR INDEPENDENT FUTURE TO INCLUDE GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

4. THIS HAS NOW CHANGED. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE IN CONTROL IN HANOI NOW ACCEPT THE SOVIET UNION'S VIEW OF CHINA. THIS VIEW IS THAT CHINA IS AN AGGRESSIVE COUNTRY CREATING PROBLEMS ALONG ITS BORDERS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. ACCORDINGLY, THE OVERSEAS CHINESE IN VIETNAM NOW ARE LOOKED UPON BY THE SRV LEADERSHIP AS POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INFLUENCE FOR CHINA AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF VIETNAM. WITH THIS VIEW OF CHINA, IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO EXPEL THE OVERSEAS CHINESE, BLACKEN THEIR REPUTATION, AND ATTEMPT TO AROUSE HISTORIC ANTI-CHINESE ANTAGONISMS AMONG THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THERE IS NO OTHER EXPLANATION FOR HANOI'S ANTI-CHINESE ACTIONS EXCEPT THE ADOPTION OF THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD CHINA BY THE SRV LEADERSHIP.

5. ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN HANOI IS SEEN IN SRV POLICY TOWARD THE USG. HANOI'S INSISTENCE THAT USG FIRST PROVIDE ASSISTANCE BEFORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS CAN BE ESTABLISHED IS OBVIOUSLY BASED ON SOVIET ADVICE. CHINA AND OTHERS UNDERSTAND THAT THE US WILL PROBABLY HELP VIETNAM AS IT HAS HELPED OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUT THAT THE US WILL

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NATURALLY NOT PAY IN ADVANCE FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HANOI HAS ADOPTED A NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH THE USG WHICH IS BOUND TO BE UNSUCCESSFUL. THIS IS BASED ON THE ADVICE OF THE SOVIET UNION WHICH DOES NOT WANT VIETNAM TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER BIG COUNTRY.

6. ATMOSPHERICS: HSIAO SOUGHT OUT CHARGE UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT PHILIPPINE RECEPTION AND MADE PRESENTATION SUMMARIZED ABOVE. LARGE CHINESE EMBASSY TURNOUT FOR RECEPTION HOVERED IN VICINITY GENTLY CARRYING OFF OTHERS WHO WANDERED OVER, UNTIL PRESENTATION COMPLETED. HSIAO USED NO PERJURATIVES OR PROPAGANDISTIC TERMINOLOGY FOR SOVIETS (OR OTHERS), ADHERING TO STANDARD CONVERSATIONAL TERMINOLOGY. HE SPOKE IN MANDARIN THROUGHOUT AND PATIENTLY REPHRASED HIS MESSAGE WHEN CHARGE STUMPED BY KIANGSU ACCENT OR UNFAMILIAR REFERENCE.

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